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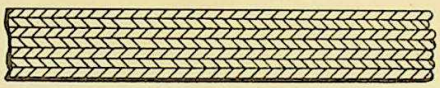
cotton wool, each layer compressed 15-75#/□in before assembling: said to be more flexible than same amount of material compressed in a single layer.



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ALIEN PROPERTY CUSTODIAN

BANDAGE FOR WOMEN

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My invention relates to bandages for women mainly consisting of cotton, cellulose of similar materials in the form of wadding surrounding, if desired, by a thin network of gauze or another tissue.

The known bandages of this kind generally show two disadvantages. In the first line they fit very inconveniently owing to their thickness. In the second place such bandages can difficultly be brought in the form of a small packing easily to be carried along, which is particularly troublesome in a journey. Some manufacturers tried to overcome this latter objection by packing bandages in folded-up state into small packages, but even in these cases remained the first and principal objection, in that the travelling-bandage drawn out of said small packet still had the same thickness as a bandage packed in the usual manner.

According to this invention I have succeeded in overcoming these and other objections by making the bandage up of a number of layers, compressed to thin dimensions, of cotton, cellulose of other vegetable fibres in the form of wadding, as they are known for instance made of cotton for use as melk-filters.

From prior publications relating to surgical appliances compositions of a number of layers appear to be known (see e. g. British Patent 299,095 which shows cellulose wadding in gauze), while other publications disclose to compress vegetable fibres (see e. g. German Patent 52,236 which shows compressed wadding in gauze). Therefrom does not result, however, the combination of both these features which just in application to a bandage for women produces a particular advantage.

By strongly compressing suitable vegetable wadding it can be attained that the bandages can be worn with less inconveniency, but the adsorptive capacity is simultaneously reduced thereby and the thin layer obtained is too hard and thus not sufficiently supple. When a layer of compressed material such as compressed cellulose of compressed crepe paper was provided in a bandage, the upper layer was therefore always made of a loose material having a great adsorptive power (see e. g. U. S. Letters Patent 1,863,-333).

These disadvantages can be overcome according to the discovery underlying the present invention, that the vegetable waddings possess such an elasticity that the absorptive capacity is substantially retained if they are compressed not too strongly, while by joining a number of such layers, a combined correspondingly thin layer can be obtained which moreover is much suppler than a layer of the same mass if compressed as a whole to the same thickness. Due to thus increased suppleness much less inconveniency is experienced in using such a bandage, which in addition thereto can easily be folded up and packed in very small dimensions.

Example: Layers of cotton wadding with a weight of 30 to 50 grams per square meter are compressed with a pressure of 1 to 5 atmospheres to layers having a thickness each of about 0.25 mms. By joining 10 to 15 of such layers in superposition of final thickness of 2.5 to 4 mms. can be obtained which in comparison with the dimensions of thickness hitherto used in bandages is much more agreeable, while the suppleness is considerably greater than can be obtained by compressing, with the same pressure, the same quantity of material in the form of a single layer.

The drawing affixed to this specification and forming part thereof illustrates an embodiment of the invention diagrammatically by way of example.

The drawing shows partly and in cross section several of the superposed layers *a*, which form the main part of a bandages for women according to the invention.

I do not wish to be limited to the specific embodiments or details disclosed in this specification merely for illustrating the invention, since modifications and changes obvious to persons skilled in the art fall in the scope of the invention.

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